

# FUTURAGE

A Road Map *for* Ageing Research



Project update –  
Year 2

**During the second year of the FUTURAGE project activities have been focused on drawing together the inputs from the twelve months of consultation. From September 2010 the project leaders began working on developing a set of multidisciplinary research priorities for the road map from the thematic and disciplinary priorities generated during the previous year.**

## **Road map theme leaders**

The thematic leaders of the road map, who led the four scientific disciplinary and the user involvement work packages, formed a focused working group which met on three occasions to assemble, revise and restructure the road map during intensive discussions. On two occasions these were scheduled adjacent to Council of Scientist meetings to ensure that their advice could be quickly incorporated into the ongoing development of the document. Meetings took place in December 2010, March 2011 and finally in June 2011.

## **Council of Scientists**

The Council of Scientists met for a second time in March 2011, to review drafts of the initial set of eight research priorities. This meeting was co-scheduled with a Theme Leaders meeting to support direct feedback into the writing process. The third and final occasion the Council of Scientists will be called on is to review the final drafts of the research priorities contained in the road map.

## **Stakeholder workshop 2**

At a second Stakeholder Workshop in London in May 2011, 70 stakeholders gathered to review the key research priorities. Summary presentations of all eight priorities were made by the theme leaders before the group split into discussion groups to review them, in detail. The discussion in all groups was lively, enthusiastic and focused; over two hours of debate followed by email discussion generated constructive feedback to the project leaders on a wide range of aspects of the road map. Attendees provided input not only on scientific issues, but relationships to policy and suggestions for an effective Road Map launch event and dissemination process.

## **Collaboration during drafting**

The theme leaders have been able to draw on additional expertise as required during the drafting of the road map and a number of external experts have reviewed and commented on specific issues to ensure an effective and balanced document.

## Generating road map research priorities

In January 2011 the first drafts of the road map research priorities were produced. Seven multidisciplinary priorities were initially identified:

- Reducing unhealthy life years
- Inhibitors and facilitators of active ageing
- Unequal ageing and age-related inequalities
- Social participation
- Social protection – quality and sustainability
- Mental capacity across the life course
- Attitudes and ageism

Biogerontology was added to a mono-disciplinary set of research priorities along with other issues such as spirituality.

In March 2011, an eighth priority was added, tentatively titled *Places and Context*. These eight multidisciplinary priorities were presented to the Council of Scientists and at the Stakeholder Workshop for review.

After reviewing the resulting feedback, the Theme Leaders agreed to reduce, if possible, the number of themes and also to eliminate the mono-disciplinary list to create a single set of research priorities. As a result the research priorities were amended in June 2011 and restructured in one single set of seven:

- Healthy ageing for more life in years
- Maintaining and regaining mental capacity across the life course
- Inclusion and participation in the community and in the labour market (a merging of *Social participation* and *Attitudes and ageism*)
- Guaranteeing quality and sustainability of social protection systems
- Ageing well at home and in community environments
- Unequal ageing and age-related inequalities
- Biogerontology

The active ageing concept reflected in *Inhibitors and facilitators of active ageing* was recognised as an underpinning feature to the whole road map and the profile of active ageing was expanded to reflect this significance. As a result the active ageing concepts explored in this draft were used to contextualise the road map in the introductory section.



Funded by the European Commission's  
Seventh Framework Programme  
FP7-HEALTH-2007-B/No 223679

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